A DARKSPAWN IS AN EMPTY, SOULLESS VESSEL, BUT A GREY WARDEN IS NOT.

THE ESSENCE OF THE ARCHDEMON IS DESTROYED... AND SO IS THE GREY WARDEN.

THE REVELATION

STORY BY DAVID GAIDER ART BY AIMO

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DON'T YOU KNOCK?

...

'TIS A *HALLWAY.*

...

YES, WELL.

WE MARCH ON *DENERIM* TOMORROW.

SO SLEEP WILL BE GOOD...

IF... YOU WITCHES *SLEEP*, THAT IS.

OR MAYBE YOU TURN INTO A CAT AND CHASE MICE?

THAT MIGHT BE *FUN*...

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RIGHT, THEN.

DON'T WATCH ME SLEEP. *IT'S CREEPY.*

WHAT--

DO YOU LOVE HER?

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS *THAT?*

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

A SIMPLE ONE.

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT *ANY-ONE.*

I...

I CARE.

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...

WE ARE NOT WAITING FOR THE *ORLESIAN WARDENS*, ARE WE?

'TWILL BE JUST THE THREE OF YOU, IN *DENERIM*.

RIORDAN SAYS WE HAVE A CHANCE.

IF ASKING A FRIEND TO DO SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* MIGHT HELP...

...WOULD YOU DO IT?

ALISTAIR!

YOU WANT ADVICE?

FROM *ME?*

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'TIS COME TO THAT, YES.

SO... YOU HAVE *FRIENDS*?

ONLY ONE.

IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP, *ABSOLUTELY*.

WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

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WEAKNESS.

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YOU KNEW IT COULD COME TO *THIS*.

YOU WARNED HER.

FIN

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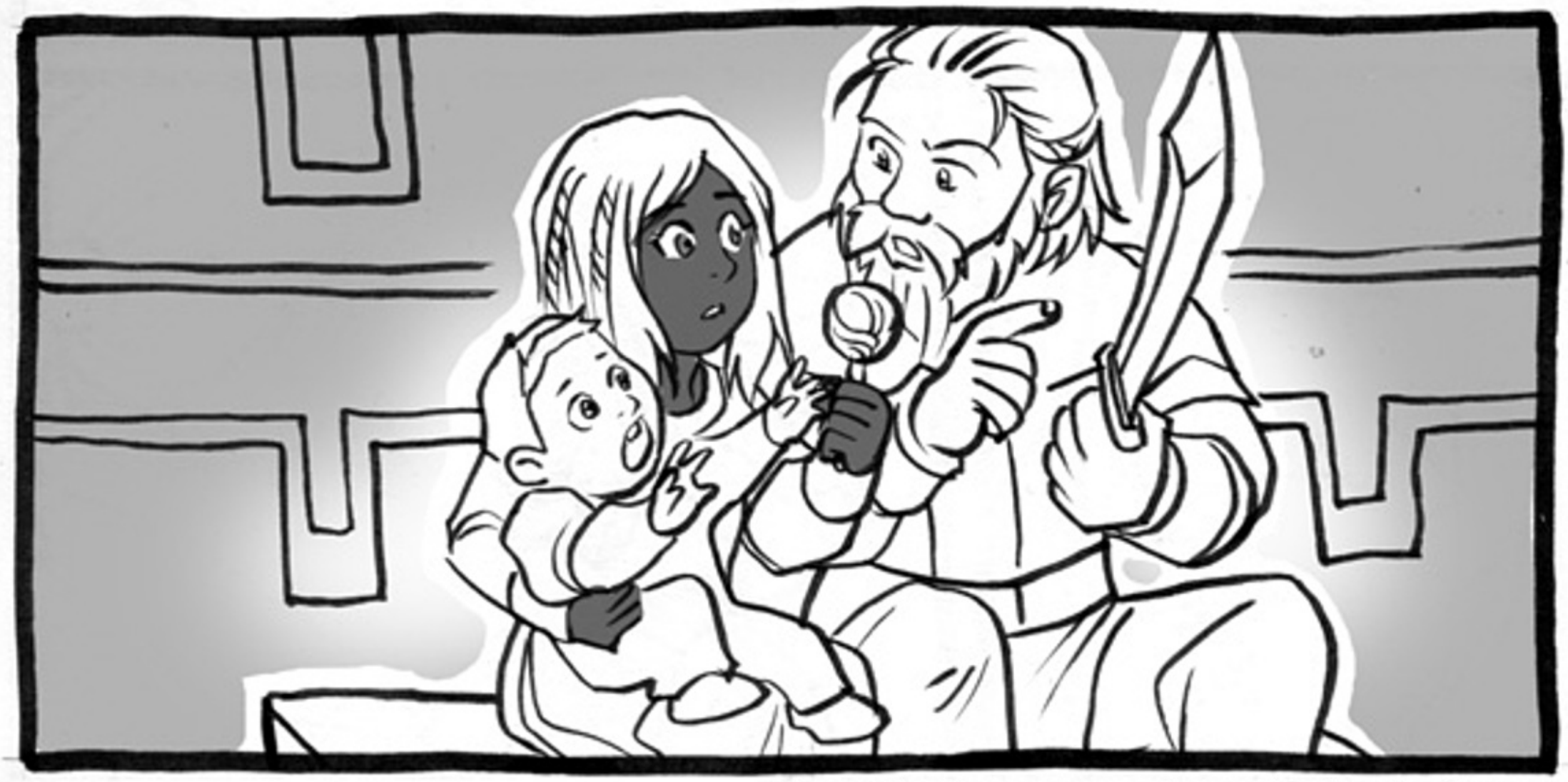

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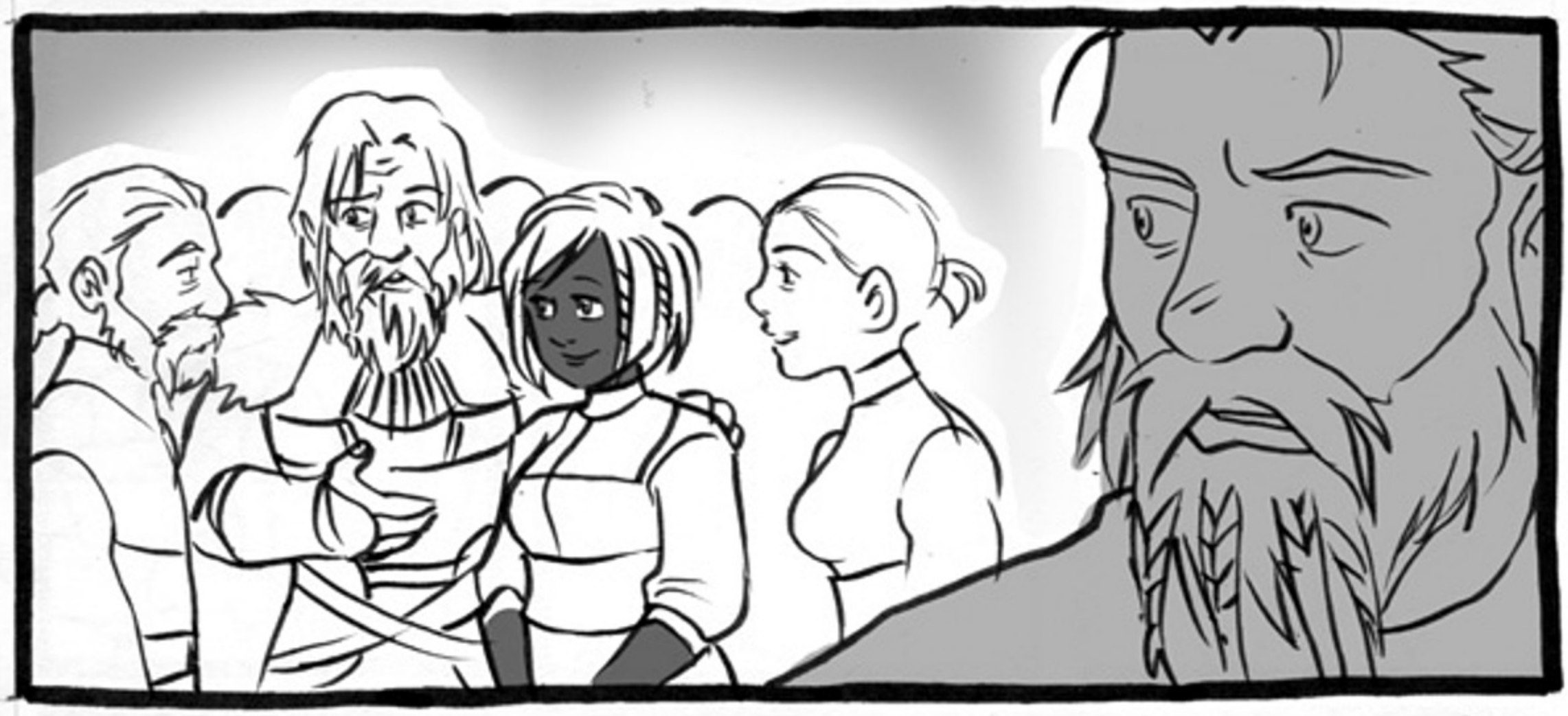

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MONSTER

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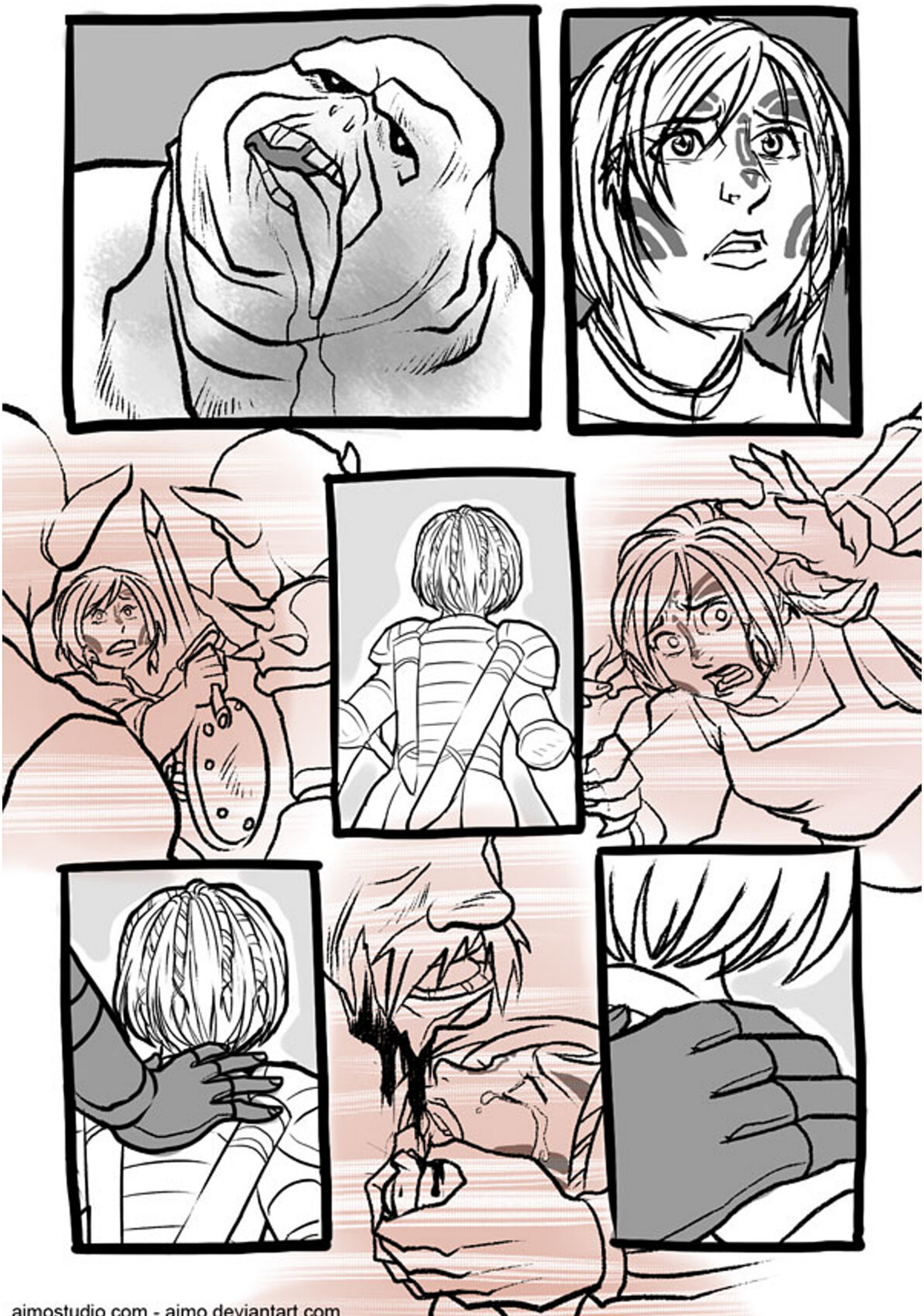

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RARGH!

MAKER'S BREATH!

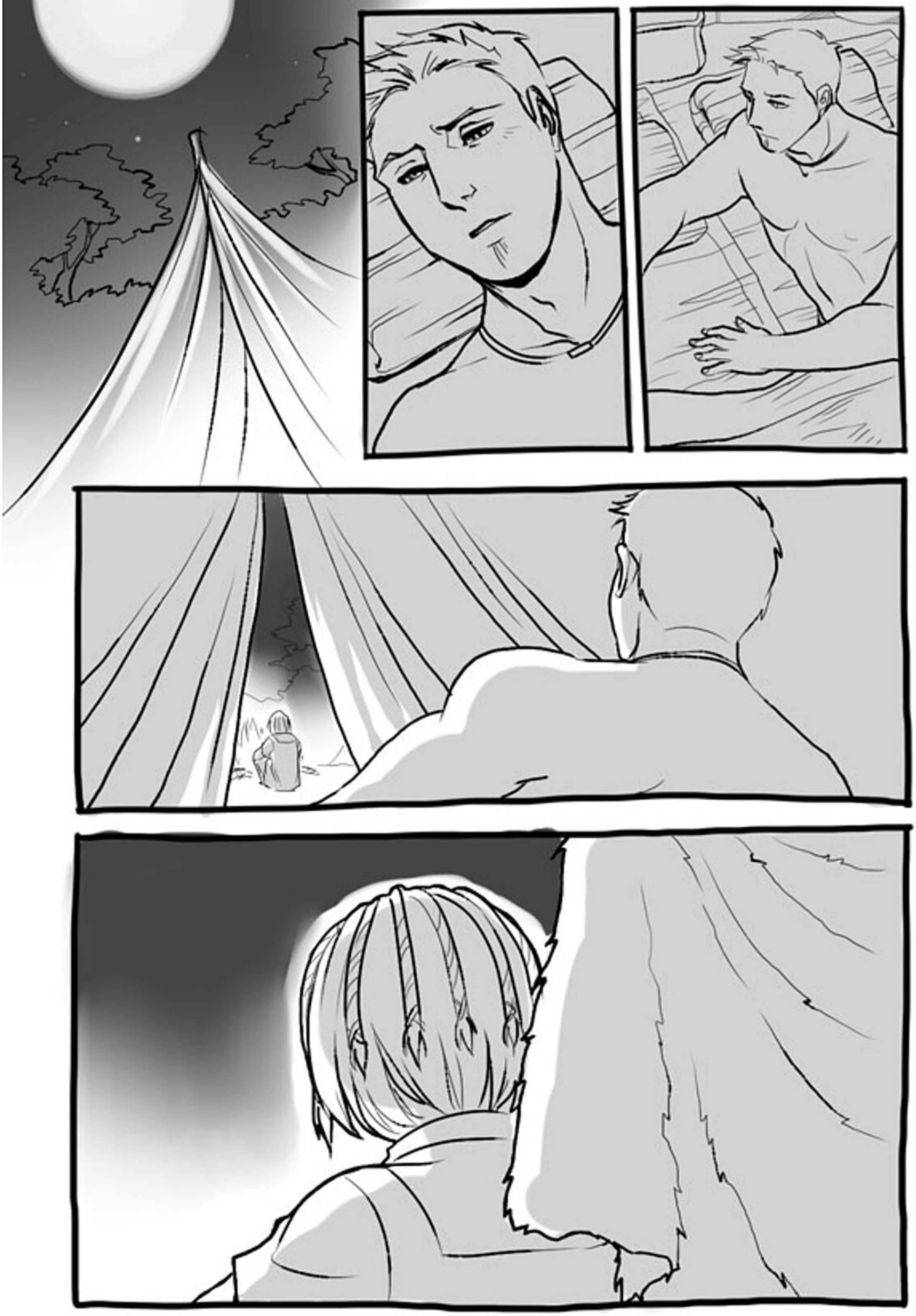
MY LOVE, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AH!

I... I...

LET'S JUST MOVE ON.

WE HAVE A PARAGON TO FIND.



CAN'T SLEEP?

I... YES.

THE *BROOD-MOTHER* HAS BEEN HAUNTING MY THOUGHTS.

I SEE.

DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

.....

WHEN THE ANCIENT THAIGS FELL TO THE DARKSPAWN...

...I USED TO BELIEVE THEY SLAUGHTERED *EVERY* DWARF THAT LAY IN THEIR PATH.

BUT THEY KEPT THE *WOMEN* ALIVE, DIDN'T THEY? TO BE DRAGGED DOWN THEIR LAIR TO A FATE *WORSE* THAN DEATH...

JUST...JUST LIKE THE WOMEN... IN *OSTAGAR*...

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>SOB<

OH, *ALISTAIR*, I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT...

...IF *DUNCAN* WASN'T IN THE *DEEP ROADS* AT THE TIME...

...IF HE WASN'T THERE TO BRING ME TO THE *SURFACE* ...

I WOULD'VE BECOME A MONSTER.

END.

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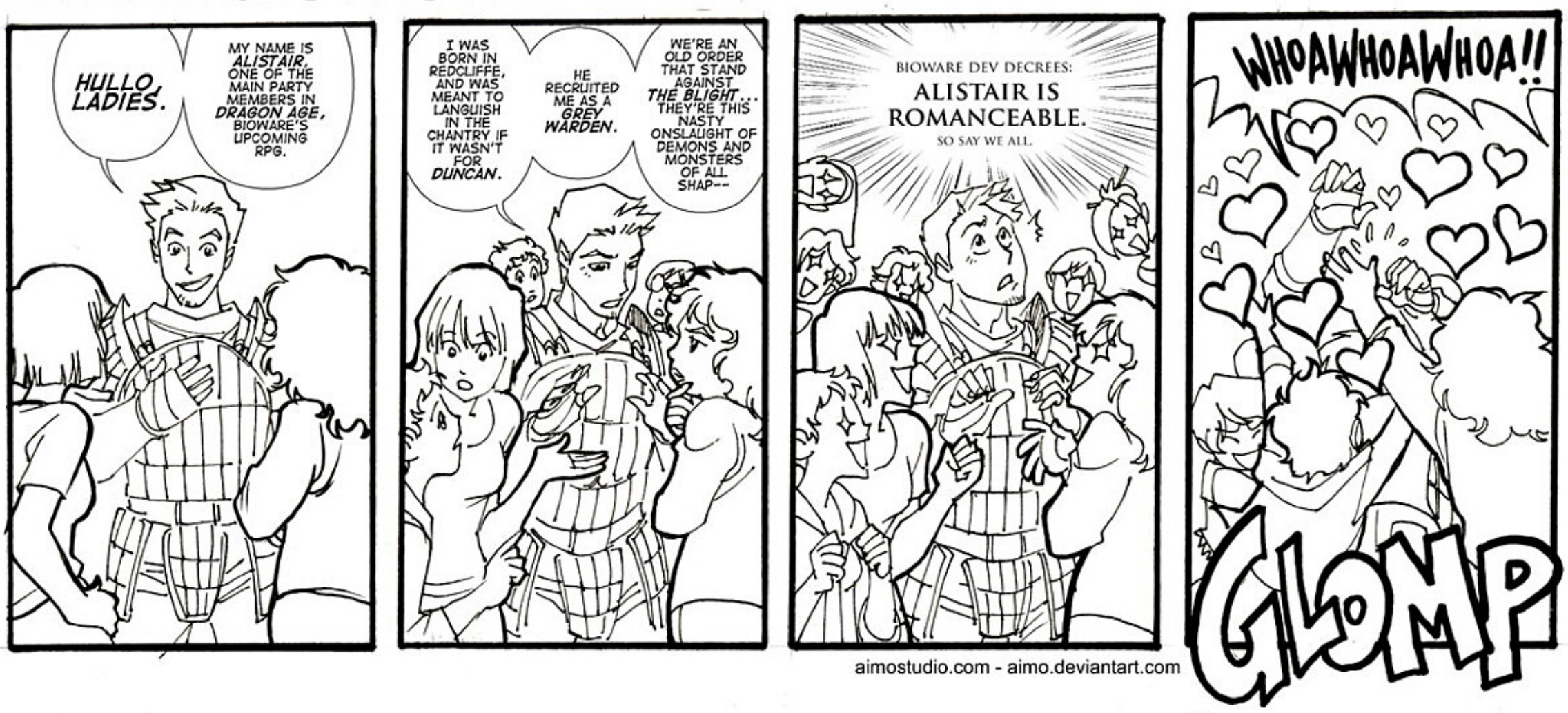
THE MAGIC WORD


HULLO, LADIES.
MY NAME IS ALISTAIR, ONE OF THE MAIN PARTY MEMBERS IN DRAGON AGE, BIOWARE'S UPCOMING RPG.
I WAS BORN IN REDCLIFFE, AND WAS MEANT TO LANGUISH IN THE CHANTRY IF IT WASN'T FOR DUNCAN.
HE RECRUITED ME AS A GREY WARDEN.
WE'RE AN OLD ORDER THAT STAND AGAINST THE BLIGHT... THEY'RE THIS NASTY ONSLAUGHT OF DEMONS AND MONSTERS OF ALL SHAP--
BIOWARE DEV DECREES:
ALISTAIR IS ROMANCEABLE.
SO SAY WE ALL.
WHOAWHOAWHOA!!
GLOMP

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STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

WHY ARE WE STILL KEEPING THIS FOUL LITTLE BEAST IN OUR ENTOURAGE?
DOG, FOR THE LAST TIME! MY CODPIECE IS NOT A CHEW TOY!
ALISTAIR, WE'VE GOT SOME MELTED CHEESE WITH BREAD BY THE CAMPFIRE! WANT SOME?
...
DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?!! HERE I COME!
I'M SURROUNDED BY UTTER FOOLS.

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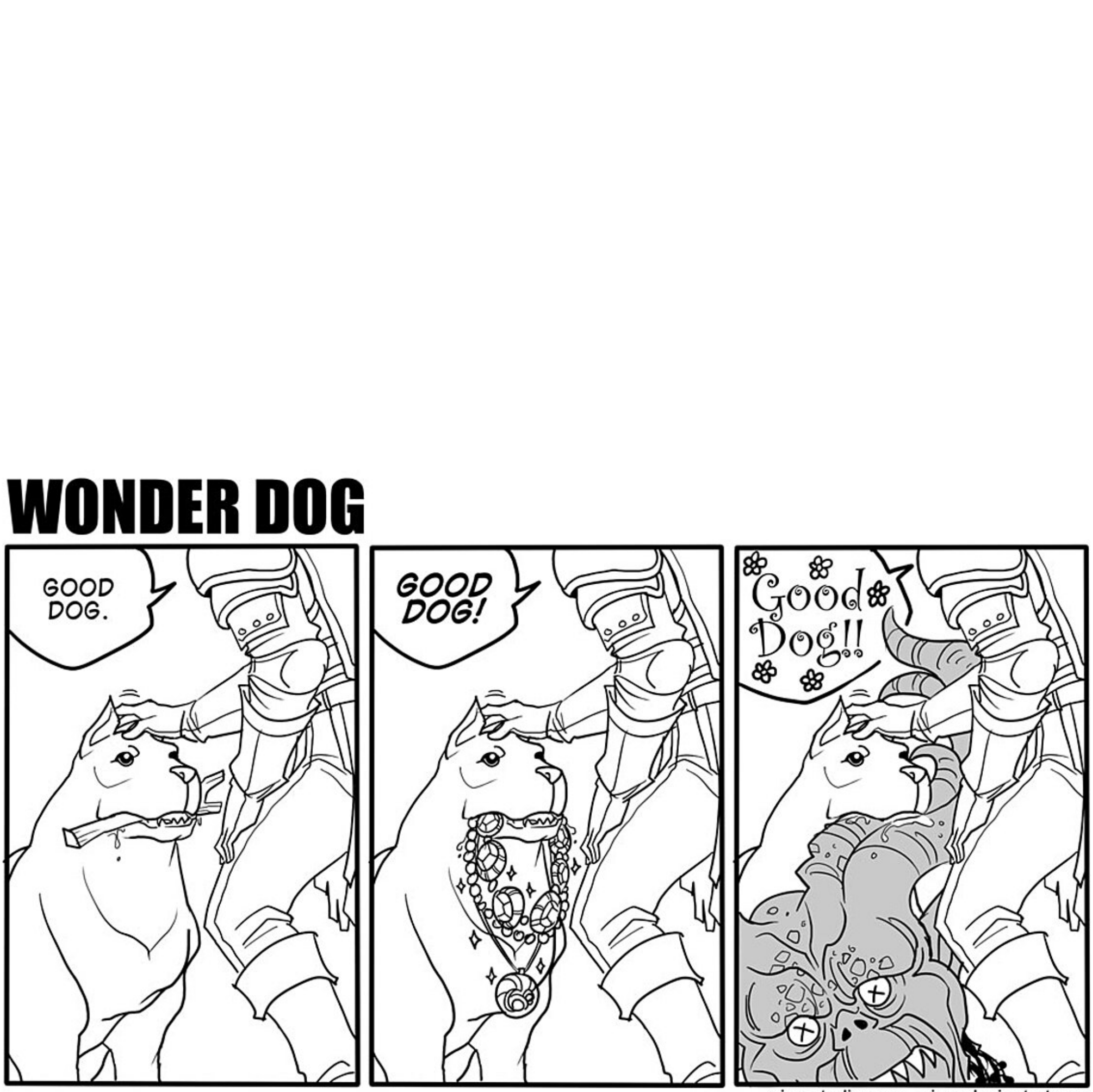
WONDER DOG



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- THE NEW RECRUIT -

I HEREBY INVOKE THE *RIGHT OF CONSCRIPTION* UPON THIS YOUNG MAN IN OUR UPCOMING BATTLE AGAINST *THE BLIGHT*.

YOU ARE WELCOMED TO HIM, *MASTER GREY WARDEN*.

HOPEFULLY *ALISTAIR'S* SPIRIT AND MIGHT MAY BE OF *USE* TO YOUR CAUSE INSTEAD OF *WANTING* IN OURS.

WELL, YOU ARE NOW ON YOUR WAY TO BECOME ONE OF US.

DO NOT BE SO QUICK TO SMILE, *ALISTAIR*.

A GREY WARDEN'S LIFE MAY PROVE TO BE FAR MORE *TRYING* THAN A TEMPLAR'S.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE INFLUENCE OF *THE BLIGHT* HAS *SPREAD*.

AS WITH MANY OTHERS IN OUR RANKS, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO *SACRIFICE* YOUR VERY BEING IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS LAND. DO YOU UNDERSTAND, *ALISTAIR*?

YES!

.....

YOU'RE JUST *HAPPY* TO BE OUT OF THAT PLACE, AREN'T YOU?

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